Health cooperation beyond aid: How the MMI Network has been discussing the relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness of (health) development cooperation

Thomas Schwarz, MMI Network
ECTMH Pre-event, 16 October 2017
Medicus Mundi International: From strengthening national health systems as problem of our partners to critically assessing the particular role of international cooperation.

MMI Strategy 2016-20: “We will promote knowledge sharing and mutual learning between actors in international health cooperation.”

2016: MMI Working group on Effective Health Cooperation
2016: “Health Cooperation: Its relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness as a contribution to achieving universal access to health”

October 2016: Berlin
May 2017: Geneva
October 2017: Antwerp

Initial focus: Promoting critical self-assessment and institutional learning
MMI discussion paper, October 2016
Health Cooperation: Its relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness as a contribution to achieving universal access to health.

medicus mundi international network health for all
Relevant, legitimate and effective health cooperation

• contributes to achieving universal access to health;
• is fully aware of its structural role, responsibilities and limitations; and
• continuously reflects on how to improve its approaches and practices.
1. The policy space: Universal access to health

- Fighting diseases
- Providing services (Programmes)

Equitable access to good quality health services (health system, UHC)

Improving conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age:
Social, economic, political, ecological determinants of health and of health policies and governance
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Health Cooperation: Its relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness as a contribution to achieving universal access to health

1. The policy space: Universal access to health

Rights

Regulation

Redistribution
Do you have a “theory of change” which defines

• how you expect health outcomes to be improved?

• your organization’s particular role and contribution?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
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GlaxoSmithKline will pay for the training of more healthcare workers who will dispense medicines and give vaccinations.
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
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The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development

Playing the Game to Change the Rules?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
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Bad aid: Should all NGOs close down?

Aid is often criticised as ineffective and wasteful, but millions still work in the sector. How can NGOs reconcile that and ensure their work has a positive impact?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

The death of international development

The development industry needs an overhaul of strategy, not a change of language.

20 Nov 2014 07:00 GMT | Politics, Poverty & Development, Aid

Engagement: 5574
Questions for reflection

▪ How do you handle the dilemma between doing “the right things” and your institution’s economic sustainability? Is there a “business” and “marketing” approach in your definition of policies and programs?

▪ Who “owns” your institution and its programs in international health cooperation? Who defines your institution’s policies and approaches? To whom is your institution accountable?

▪ Would you call yourself a “learning organization”? If yes, what are your instruments and structures, and who is in charge of your institutional learning?
3. Effective health cooperation
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Health Cooperation: Its relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness as a contribution to achieving universal access to health

Antwerp, 16 October 2017

Seven Behaviours

How development partners can change for the better

- Provide well-coordinated technical assistance
- Support a single national health strategy
- Record all funds for health in the national budget
- Harmonize and align with national financial management systems
- Use one information and accountability platform
- Support south-to-south and triangular cooperation
- What we do
  - History
  - Working Groups
  - Management and Documents
  - Past IHP+ Meetings
  - A global commitment
UHC2030 is the global movement to build stronger health systems for universal health coverage.

UHC2030 provides a multi-stakeholder platform to promote collaborative working in countries and globally on health systems strengthening. We advocate increased political commitment to universal health coverage (UHC) and facilitate accountability and knowledge sharing.

Find out more >
Where to go from here?

- **Continue to promote platforms, fora and spaces** where practices, values, concerns, in relation to health development and cooperation can be discussed in an open, transparent way.

- **Continue to promote institutional learning and sharing.** Deepen dialogue on particular approaches, strategies and methods promoted by international health cooperation.

- **Link discussion of health cooperation with dialogue on broader foreign and global health policy** (Session 2 of the current meeting).
Thank you!